

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A fuel cell comprising:
 - a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;
 - a separator which holds the joint body;
 - a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;
 - a rib portion which divides an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and forms a passage for fluid which flows through the separator, wherein each of the plurality of regions extends substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other; and
 - a gas supply inlet which is formed as an opening along an edge of the separator bottom ~~into the fluid passage~~ and supplies a gas to the fluid passage therethrough, wherein gas supply inlets of separators of adjacent unit cells of the fuel cell communicate with each other to channel the gas, and further wherein the gas supply inlet is located so that the gas enters into a first of the plurality of regions in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the first region.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently amended) A fuel cell according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - a cooling plate located adjacent to ~~a top of~~ the separator; and
 - a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling plate.

4. (Previously presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein a direction of the gas flow in the fluid passage in at least one of the plurality of regions differs from a direction of the gas flow in a second one of the plurality of regions.

5. (Previously presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein the rib portion comprises at least one rib piece.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) A fuel cell according to claim 5, further comprising:
a cooling plate located adjacent to a top of the separator; and
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling plate.

8. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 5, wherein a width of a turning section of the fluid passage defined by the rib piece is narrower than a width of the fluid passage.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) A fuel cell ~~cell~~ according to claim 8, further comprising:
a cooling plate located adjacent to a top of the separator; and
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling plate.

11. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising:
a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;
a separator which holds the joint body;

a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;
a rib portion which divides an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and forms a passage for fluid which flows through the separator, wherein each of the plurality of regions extends substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other; and
a gas supply inlet which connects the fluid passage and supplies a gas to the fluid passage therethrough, wherein the gas supply inlet is located so that the gas enters into a first of the plurality of regions in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the first region;
wherein the width of each of the regions is different.

12. (Previously presented) A fuel cell according to claim 11, wherein the width of the regions near an inlet portion of the fluid passage is wider than the width of the regions near an outlet portion of the fluid passage.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently amended) A fuel cell according to claim 12, further comprising:
a cooling plate located adjacent to ~~a top of~~ the separator; and
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling plate.

15. (Previously presented) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein a number of projections arranged in each of the regions is different.

16. (Previously presented) A fuel cell according to claim 15, wherein the number of projections arranged in the regions near an inlet portion of the fluid passage is greater than the number of projections arranged in regions near an outlet portion of the fluid passage.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A fuel cell according to claim 16, further comprising:
a cooling plate located adjacent to ~~a top of~~ the separator; and
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the cooling plate forming a passage for coolant from a first side of the cooling plate to the second side of the cooling plate.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising:
a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;
a separator which holds the joint body;
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;
a rib portion which divides an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and forms a passage for fluid which flow through the separator,
wherein each of the plurality of regions extend substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other, and the plurality of projections within each of the plurality of regions are formed in a regular pattern across a width of each of the plurality of regions, and are formed in the same regular pattern across a length of each of the plurality of regions, and
wherein the width of each of the plurality of regions is narrower than the width of its immediately upstream region.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 20, wherein a width of a turning passage between an end of the rib portion and an opposing peripheral wall of the separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising:

a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;

a separator which holds the joint body;

a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;

a plurality of rib portions which divide an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and form a passage for fluid which flow through the separator,

wherein each of the plurality of regions extend substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other, and the plurality of projections within each of the plurality of regions are formed in a regular pattern across a width of each of the plurality of regions, and are formed in the same regular pattern across a length of each of the plurality of regions, and

wherein the width of each of the plurality of regions is narrower than the width of its immediately upstream region.

25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 24, wherein a width of a turning passage between an end of each of the plurality of rib portions and their respective opposing peripheral walls of the separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising:

a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;

a separator which holds the joint body;

a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;

a rib portion which divides an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and forms a passage for fluid which flow through the separator,

wherein each of the plurality of regions extend substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other, and the plurality of projections within each of the plurality of regions are formed in a regular pattern across a width of each of the plurality of regions, and are continuous across at least a portion of a length of each of the plurality of regions, and

wherein the width of each of the plurality of regions is narrower than the width of its immediately upstream region.

29. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 28, wherein a width of a turning passage between an end of the rib portion and an opposing peripheral wall of the separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.

30. (Previously presented) A fuel cell comprising:
a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;
a separator which holds the joint body;
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;
a plurality of rib portions which divide an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and form a passage for fluid which flow through the separator,
wherein each of the plurality of regions extend substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other, and the plurality of projections within each of the plurality of regions are formed in a regular pattern across a width of each of the plurality of regions, and are continuous across at least a portion of a length of each of the plurality of regions, and
wherein the width of each of the plurality of regions is narrower than the width of its immediately upstream region.

31. (Previously presented) The fuel cell according to claim 30, wherein a width of a turning passage between an end of each of the plurality of rib portions and their

respective opposing peripheral walls of the separator is less than or equal to the width of the immediately upstream region.

32. (Previously presented) A fuel cell according to claim 11, wherein a width is consistent within a region.

33. (Currently amended) A fuel cell comprising:
a joint body produced by interposing an electrolyte member between a pair of electrodes;
a separator which holds the joint body;
a plurality of projections projecting from a bottom of the separator;
a rib portion which divides an area where the projections project into a plurality of regions and forms a passage for fluid which flows through the separator, wherein each of the plurality of regions extends substantially across a width of the separator and communicate with each other, and wherein a number of projections arranged in each of the regions ~~is different~~ successively decreases across at least three regions; and
a gas supply inlet which connects the fluid passage and supplies a gas to the fluid passage therethrough, wherein the gas supply inlet is located so that the gas enters into a first of the plurality of regions in a direction parallel to a longitudinal axis of the first region.

34. (Previously presented) A fuel cell according to claim 33, wherein the number of projections arranged in the regions near an inlet portion of the fluid passage is greater than the number of projections arranged in regions near an outlet portion of the fluid passage.

35. (New) A fuel cell according to claim 11, wherein the width of each region is narrower than a width of its immediately upstream region.